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ACCORDING to foreign journals a Berlin inventor, Mr. Hugo Gantke, has recently designed a simple device for the felling of trees. The trunks are cut by the friction of a steel wire about one millimeter in diameter, which, as demonstrated by practical tests, is able to cut through a tree of about 20 inches (50 cm.) in thickness in six minutes. The wire, which is carried to and fro by an electric motor, is heated by friction on the tree to such an extent as to burn through the timber, the result being a cut which is both smoother and cleaner than that effected by a saw. The wire will work satisfactorily on the thickest trees without the insertion of wedges into the cut, and trees may be cut immediately above or below the ground. In the latter case the stump may be left safely in the soil. The motor which actuates the wire is installed outside of the range affected by the fall of the tree, and when electricity is not already available it can be generated by a transportable power plant, consisting of a 10-horse power petrol motor and dynamo, which are left at the entrance to the forest during the felling operations. By this method large tropical trees up to 10 feet in diameter can be cut and felled by a single operator, a considerable advantage being the absence of any waste in the timber.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

GROUND has been broken for the library building at the University of Chicago, which is to serve as a memorial to the late President William Rainey Harper.

GROUND has been broken for the addition to Morse Hall, the chemical laboratory of Cornell University, the cost of which was provided for by Mr. Andrew Carnegie's recent gift of \$50,000.

THE cornerstone has been laid of the new building at Columbia University, in which the departments of the faculty of philosophy are to have their rooms.

LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY benefits under the will of Mr. T. S. Timmis to the extent of £10,000 to endow a cancer research laboratory.

WE learn from the *New York Medical Record* that at the University of Pennsyl-

vania with the opening of the coming fall session an elective course in tropical medicine will be offered under the immediate charge of Dr. Allen J. Smith, in conjunction with Dr. A. C. Abbott, Dr. G. E. de Schweinitz, Dr. William Pepper, Dr. W. H. Hartzell and Dr. H. H. Jacobs. The course will comprise instruction in medical climatology and geography, the hygiene of ships and of the tropics, protozoology, anthropology, helminthology, general medical pathology, diseases of the eye and of the skin, surgical diseases common to the tropics, pathology of tropical diseases, and systematic and clinical tropical medicine.

DR. JOHN HENRY MACCRACKEN has been designated as acting chancellor of New York University, the appointment to take effect on the resignation of his father, Dr. Henry M. MacCracken next month.

DR. L. C. KARPINSKI has been promoted to an assistant professorship of mathematics at the University of Michigan. He will give a course in the history of mathematics.

DR. FRANCIS M. SLACK, director of the bacteriological laboratory of the Boston Health Department, has accepted an instructorship in bacteriology in the Kansas State College.

CHARLES S. WILSON has been promoted to a professorship of pomology at Cornell University.

DR. GOTTLIEB HABERLANDT, professor of botany at Gratz, has been called to Berlin.

DR. A. GILBERT, professor of therapeutics at the Paris College of Medicine, has been appointed professor of clinical medicine to succeed Dr. Dieulafoev.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### SCHMIEDEKNECHT ON THE PARASITIC HYMENOPTERA OF THE FAMILY CHALCIDIDÆ

IN the ninety-seventh fascicle of Wytsman's "Genera Insectorum"<sup>1</sup> Dr. Otto Schmiedeknecht gives a treatment of the hymenopterous

<sup>1</sup> "Genera Insectorum," dirigés par P. Wytsman, Bruxelles, 97<sup>me</sup> fascicule, Hymenoptera, family Chalcididæ, by Professor Dr. Otto Schmiedeknecht, 550 pages, 8 plates, 1909. (Price, 136 francs, or \$27.20.)